



The Sandpaper

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"The Pearl of the Desert"

March 2000

Millennium Celebration 2000

Airshow takes off March 11

By JOC(SW) Donna
Corvin
Editor

Naval Air Facility El Centro's Millennium Celebration 2000 Air Show takes off March 11, showcasing the Navy's Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels.

Besides the Blue Angels, several other military and civilian aerobatics demonstrations are scheduled to perform. From the opening ceremonies which begin at 10 a.m., the airshow is packed with performances from wing-walkers, aerobatics, hang-gliders, parachute jumpers, jet car racing and more! Experience the wall of fire and be inspired by the Heritage flight featuring old and new aircraft in a side-by-side fly by.

The Navy rock band, Millennium, will entertain visitors with both a pre-airshow concert from 9 - 10 a.m. and a post airshow concert starting at 4 p.m.

On the ground many military and civilian aviation static displays will satisfy the most avid aviation enthusiast. Attempt to climb the portable rock wall, visit the "Taj Mahal," the Navy's newest recruiting display and the numerous other non-aviation displays on hand to entertain the more than 40,000 expected visitors.

For the past 54 years NAF El Centro has been the winter training grounds for the Blue Angels and has always hosted the first air show of every Blue Angels season.

All hands are invited to the air facility's 30th action-packed, family-oriented airshow. Gates open at 9 a.m. No ice chests will be allowed on the flightline this year.



U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Team



Silver Wings Flight Team

For more information call the Millennium Celebration 2000 Air Show information line at 339-2519 or check the airshow website at www.nafec.navy.mil.

*See pages 4-5
for more
airshow
information*



Weaponeer honored as 1999 SOY

Being the driving force behind the department's support of numerous fleet activities is how AO1(AW) Charles J. Baldwin is described in his nomination package and a part of the reason why he's been tapped, for the second consecutive year, to be NAF El Centro's Sailor of the Year.

"I was amazed that I was selected two years in a row," said Baldwin. "The competition was stiff." Baldwin credits his abilities to two people in his life. "Lt. Tony Craighead, my former LCPO while stationed on the USS Independence (CV-62), taught me how to truthfully express myself as a Sailor," he said. "AOC(AW) Paul Lotz has helped me refine that skill and it is his style of leadership that I now model."

CWO2 Harold T. Clarke, Weapons
See AO1, page 3



Captain's Corner

It has been a while since we have seen a Sandpaper, but in the middle of all that is transpiring we are getting one on the streets. This weekend will be the airshow. The Blue Angels have been here for 21/2 months of training for the upcoming season. Once again they headline the first Navy airshow of the year, or in this case, of the new millennium. However, we also have some other great airshow attractions. This year we believe we will have the biggest air show in the history of NAF El Centro. Both civilian performers and other military acts should delight the aircraft enthusiasts or ordinary spectator. Many military and civilian static displays will be on hand to look at and ask questions about. This year's program we believe will keep the attention of the young, the elderly, and the curious. I'm sure all the hard work and effort that members of NAF have put into the preparation for this air show will be justly rewarded by the performances of the variety of acts. So, make sure you come out and enjoy the NAF El Centro Air Show 2000.

It's no secret to anyone that this is the busiest time of the year for NAF. Besides the Blues we also have many detachments coming this month. These detachments are larger, staying longer, and requiring more

services. You, the men and women of NAF (and I include the tenant commands as members of NAF), make it possible for them to complete their necessary training.. One of my favorite jobs is to listen to detachment O-in-C's while they tell me how great their stay has been, and then specifically mentions the great assistance from the personnel stationed here. Makes me feel real good, and I hope it makes you feel the same.

Now let's talk about fire alarms. Some were purposely activated (not maliciously, I hope) during the past few months. It's extremely important we know what to do in case of a fire here on base. Fire evacuation bills should be posted, but if you have any questions contact our NAF Fire Department. They are the PROs. Fires are no jokes, but serious business. All base fire-fighting equipment should be up to date. Playing with that equipment (in the barracks area especially) will not be tolerated.

Living out here in this environment some times plays heck with soil erosion. We are actively trying to halt that with our environmental programs. Recently, we began the first of a four-phase program to help "beautify" our base while combating erosion. Under Public Works' guidance, contractors have started the process in the Blues/Mini Mart area and are working toward the Mirage Club. The contractors really know what they are doing and so far everything looks great. When it is complete I believe it will be a project that we can all take pride in.

April 15th is around the corner and as you know that's the income tax deadline. Don't wait until the last minute like I usually do and then have to scramble around getting things together to complete the forms. As in year's past, NAF is providing limited tax services for personnel. VITA volunteers have the required schooling and are ready to help you with your income tax return. This service is available by appointment only. Contact ATC Fink at 339-2244/45 or email him at fink.howard.e@nafec.navy.mil for more information.

During Tuesday's all-hands meeting, we discussed proper ethics as related to the political campaigns presently going on throughout the nation. It is our right as American citizens to register and vote. We ENCOURAGE you to do that. But, we, as employees of the federal government, and



especially those in a supervisory position, can not unduly influence other employees as to whom or how they should vote. This is a very strict policy, and further discussions (as I was glad to hear there was) should be directed to our Command Evaluator and Integrity Office, 337-5225.

The Environmental and Natural Resources division of Public Works has garnered a tremendous award recently. They have won the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Cleanup Award for installation for FY99. This is a fantastic recognition of a team that I believe has worked extremely hard at cleaning up the environment in and around our facility. Again, congratulations and well done!

They aren't the only super stars among us. I want to also take the time to congratulate AOC(AW) Melinda Chambers who has been selected for the Warrant Officer Program! It's a tough program to get in to and the board only picks the best of the best! And...did you know that Brown & Root has a soon to be Limited Duty Officer working with them? Wayne Bryson is not only a stellar B&R employee but also a naval reservist who will be commissioned into the LDO program this summer. Bravo Zulu to both of you. I am very proud of your accomplishments!

My last comments for this article: What a great base! Why? Because of you, the members who work here and provide the needed expertise to complete the mission. You are truly PROFESSIONALS and I am proud to be associated with you. Keep up the great work.

--Capt. L.W. Crane

The Sandpaper

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Naval Air Facility El Centro, CA 92243
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Pearls of the Desert



The following personnel have recently been recognized for their outstanding achievements.

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

ENS Hyatt

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER

AOAN BOND

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

MS. ANN WRIGHT

OUTSTANDING PRT

CAPT CRANE

CDR WILSON

LT BEREDO

LT WHITE

LTJG LAVALLEE

ENS HYATT

CWO2 JOHNSON

ETCM HIPP

ABFCS CANADY

JOC CORVIN

MSC FRAGE

ASC ROQUE

AC1 MCCOY

AO1 RUBALCABA

AO1 SIMS

DP2 HENLEY

AO2 PRICE

CMC2 NAVARRO

AO2 RAIPE

AO2 THOMAS

AO3 JOHNSON

AOAA CHRISTMAN

AOAN MCLAUGHLIN

ACAN RODRIGUEZ

ACAN STEPHENS

AA JAMERSON

AOAR FLANAGAN

AOAR THOMPSON

25 MILE MASTER SWIMMERS

HM3 PEREZ

HM3 JOHNSON

DK3 KING

MICHELLE RODVILL



ENS Bradley Hyatt is awarded a NAM by the CO during a recent awards ceremony.

AO1

Officer, describes Baldwin as being tremendously talented and versatile. [Baldwin is] a natural leader who took charge of a 20-person division and was directly responsible for the flawless breakout, assembly, issue and receipt of over 1,600 tons of ordnance to 48 squadrons, he said.

"This is a significant achievement for Baldwin," said Lotz. "SOY two years in a row showcases his professionalism, motivation, and consistency. That's a great asset for this department and for the base as a whole."

DoD to Implement Smart Card Program

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Secretary

WASHINGTON — The military adage "hurry up and wait" may become as obsolete as brown boots and C rations once DoD issues Smart Cards.

DoD wants Smart Cards to replace active and reserve component military ID cards. The cards would also be issued to civilians and certain contractors with access to DoD facilities.

Smart Cards are equipped with an electronic chip, a magnetic strip and a barcode. They've proven to be efficient time savers that can be programmed for use everywhere from dining facilities to weapons armories. They can be used to grant physical access to defense facilities and to electronically access computer networks.

The card can hold information about service members' inoculations, medical and dental records, finance allotments and other data.

Smart Cards could help eliminate standing in line, filling out forms and other processing chores, according to defense officials here.

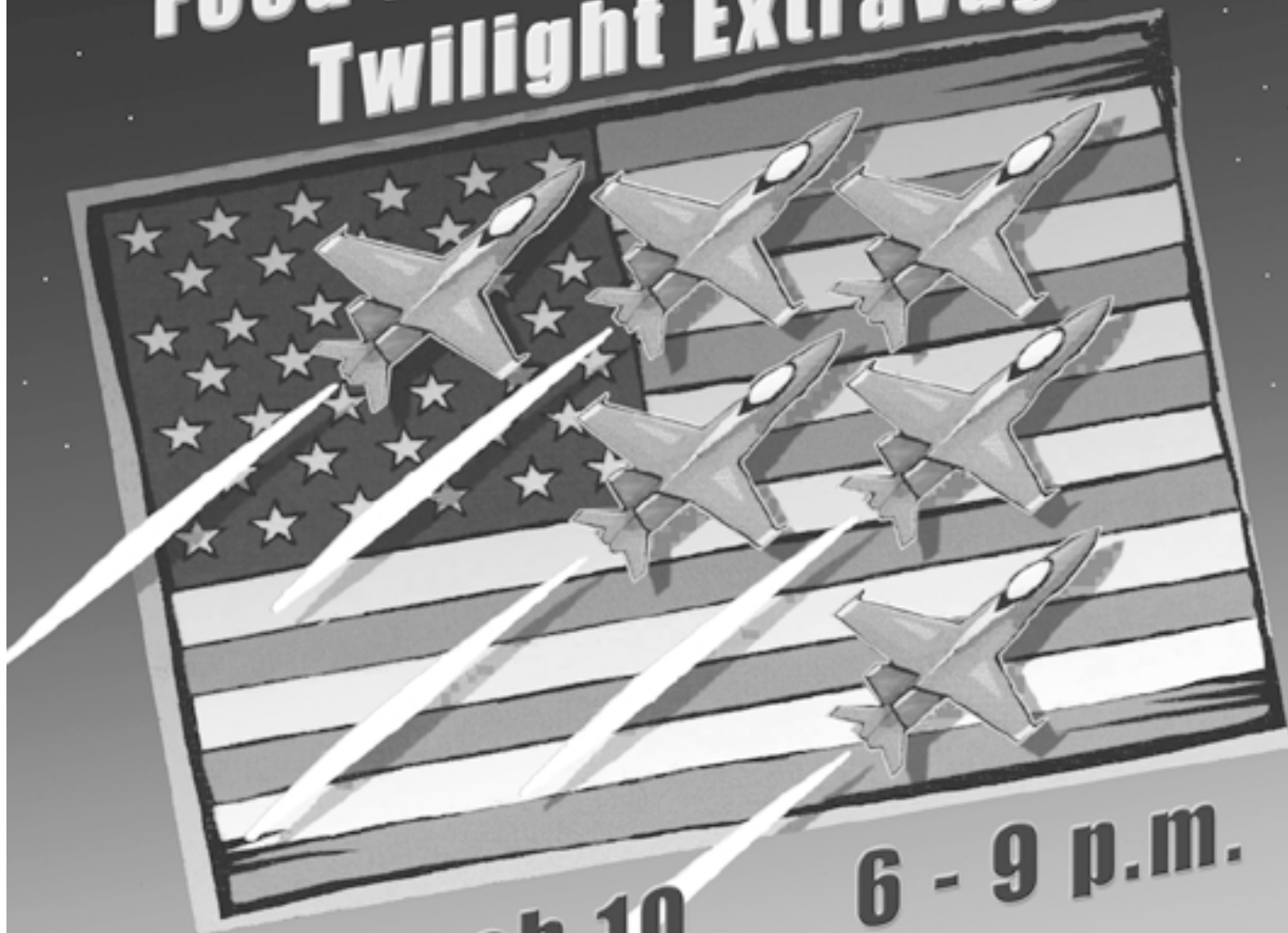
Instead, a simple swipe of the card would provide all the necessary information. Flight manifests and deployment processing could be completed in minutes rather than hours.

The need for information security is the driving force behind the decision to employ Smart Cards, according to Ken Schefflen, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center here. The card would serve as the individual identification key, or "PKI" for "public key infrastructure," that provides additional layers of security on DoD's computer networks.

Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre has authorized the department to implement the program, which military officials have been working on in one form or another for more than a decade, Schefflen said. The decision follows a series of tests done by the services over the past two years, he said.

Congress designated the Navy, under the direction of the DoD's chief information officer, as the lead agency for the \$145 million program, which would be implemented from fiscal 2000 to 2005.

NAF El Centro Food Fest & Twilight Extravaganza



March 10

6 - 9 p.m.

**Food From Local Restaurants Silent Auction For Plane Rides
Twilight Pyrotechnic Performances Live Music
Meet the U.S. Navy Blue Angels & Other Aerobatic Air Show Performers**

Tickets: \$4 At Participating Restaurants, \$6 At The Gate

Schedule Of Events *(Subject to change)*

Friday

Community Day Air Show

Air Show Begins -- 11:00 a.m.
Navy SEALs Parachute Team
Jim Modes - AT6 Texan
F-16 Falcon
Dan Buchanan - Hang Gliding
John Collver - AT6 Texan
Greg Poe - Edge 540
F-14 Tomcat
Tim Weber - Extra 300
A-10 Warthog
Silver Wings - Wing Walking
Rocky Hill - Extra 300
Blue Angels

Twilight Extravaganza 6 - 9 p.m.

Dan Buchanan - Hang Gliding
Eric Beard - Russian Thunder YAK 54
The Beast Jet Car
F-14 Tomcat Demonstration

Saturday

Millennium Celebration

2000 Air Show

Gates Open -- 9 a.m.
Opening Ceremonies -- 10:10 a.m.
U.S. Navy's SEALs/ Silver Wings Wing
Walking Team
Jim Modes - AT6 Texan
Rocky Hill, Tim Weber, Eric Beard

F-14 Tomcat

F-14 vs. The Beast Jet Car

Dan Buchanan - Hang Gliding

Eric Beard - Russian Thunder YAK 54

John Collver - AT6 Texan

John Collver vs. The Beast

Greg Poe -

F-16 Falcon

Heritage Flight

Tim Weber - Extra 300

A-10 - Warthog

Silver Wings

Rocky Hill - Extra 300

Blue Angels



Navy Photos by JOC(SW) Donna Corvin

AT2 Kenneth Hazlewood straps in a "shadow" for a tour of the F/A 18 Hornet cockpit



HM2 Mario Portillo explains the X-Ray process to inquisitive onlookers



Several students were curious about aviation jobs

Base personnel mentor area school students

Groundhog Job Shadow Day Impacts One Million Young People Nationwide

By JOC(SW) Donna Corvin
Editor

NAF El Centro and tenant command personnel joined the likes of former President George Bush and General Colin Powell as "career mentors" who saw their shadows as part of Groundhog Job Shadow Day 2000 on Feb. 2.

Twenty-two Imperial Valley students joined the more than one million young people estimated to have shadowed working professionals in workplaces like NAF El Centro as part of the Third Annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Students were able to shadow the K-9 unit from the Security

"What you may not realize is how much you and your staff have impacted the Imperial County students."

Rebecca Blair, Program Coordinator

Department, mechanics from the Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet Maintenance Unit, air traffic controllers from the Operations Department, medical personnel at the Branch Medical Clinic and the XO.

"What you may not realize is how much you and your staff have impacted the Imperial County students," said Rebecca Blair,

School to Career Program Manager. The School to Career program was the local sponsor to this nationwide event. "We are already hearing about the great experiences both students and hosts had on Groundhog Job Shadow Day," Blair continued.

Job Shadow Day is a year-long national effort to enrich the lives of students. This is accomplished by acquainting them with the world of work through on-the-job experiences and a carefully crafted school curriculum that ties academics to the workplace.

"For many students," said Blair, "this was a day when their eyes were opened, not only to new information, but also to the career possibilities that are now within their grasp."